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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/823,396	03/30/2001	Yuichi Taguchi	37016.00181(HAL 151A)	8762
7590 03/01/2005			EXAMINER	
SQUIRE, SANDERS & DEMPSEY L.L.P.			SHANG, ANNAN Q	
600 Hansen Way			ART UNIT	
Palo Alto, CA 94304			PAPER NUMBER	
			2614	

DATE MAILED: 03/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/823,396

Applicant(s)

TAGUCHI ET AL.

Examiner

Annan Q Shang

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 July 2001.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 07/23/01.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-20, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by **Alexander et al (6,177,931)**.

As to claim 1, note the **Alexander et al** reference figures 1-4, disclose creation of viewer profile and utilizations of viewer profile information to customize various aspects of the EPG and advertisements and further disclose a web tuner apparatus (Television Receiver "TVR" 10), comprising:

the claimed "a processor;" is met by TVR 10 Processor (fig. 1, col. 3, line 2-7 and col. 5, lines 20-28); and "a memory" is met by RAM of TVR 10;

the claimed "a first personal information store, the first personal information store comprising at least one of a plurality of relationships between a user definable identifier and a media source;" is met by RAM of Television Receiver (TVR) 10 (fig. 1, col. 3, lines 3-7, col. 5, lines 21-28 and col. 16, line 36-col. 17, line 12), which stores a viewer favorite channel(s) based on themes "a first personal information" comprising a plurality

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of relationships between a user favorite program(s) and channel(s) "definable identifier for a media source;"

the claimed "a remotable media control device, with which media to receive may be selected, and with which the plurality of relationships between a user definable identifier and source is input" is met by Remote Controller (RC) 26 (fig. 2 and col. 3, lines 21-35), which is a viewer's input device for selecting a program or channel "media" of theme(s) of favorite channel(s) "a plurality of relationships between the user definable identifier" (col. 7, lines 9-17, col. 30, lines 1-16 and lines 46-58);

the claimed "a display, operable to provide information about media sources" is met by TVR 10 Display Unit (col. 7, lines 10-17, col. 10, lines 43-60 and col. 16, lines 36-50), which provides favorite channel(s) and programs "information about the media sources"

the claimed "at least one receiver..." is met by TVR 10 Tuner or Receiver (col. 3, lines 3-7, col. 5, lines 21-28), which receives a plurality of programs and channels

the claimed "a switch, operable to select one of a plurality of types of media..." is met by TVR 10 Tuner (col. 7, lines 10-17, col. 10, lines 43-60), note that upon receiving a viewer selection of a program or channel via RC 26, TVR 10 Processor, commands tuner "switch" of TVR 10, to select the program to be played from the at least one of the plurality of programs received by TVR 10 and outputs to TVR 10 Display Unit for presentation to the viewer (col. 16, lines 36-50);

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As to claim 2, Alexander further discloses where the media includes cable television, television broadcast, WWW and Internet based information (col. 8, lines 19-43 and col. 32, lines 7-22).

As to claim 3, Alexander further discloses where one of the favorite channel(s) comprises a logical channel table (col. 8, lines 5-35, col. 16, lines 36-50 and col. 30, lines 47-58).

As to claim 4, Alexander further discloses where the RC 26 comprises a channel service user interface for a plurality of programs, where the channels are mapped into logical channel values (col. 7, lines 10-17, col. 10, lines 43-60 and col. 30, line 47-col.31, line 14).

As to claim 5, Alexander further discloses where a Programmable Direct Memory Access (DMA) "main controller program" process operatively disposed in the memory, the DMA providing inputs to select program to Tuner "media selector" and inputs to customize channel information to a channel customize program process (col. 5, lines 20-45)

As to claim 6, Alexander further discloses where TVR 10 includes a network interface means for providing connectivity to a server (col. 8, lines 44-64).

As to claim 1, note the **Alexander et al** reference figures 1-4, disclose creation of viewer profile and utilizations of viewer profile information to customize various aspects of the EPG and advertisements and further disclose a web station apparatus (EPG internet website), comprising:

the claimed “a processor;” “a memory;” “a display;” “an input device;” and “a server” are met by EPG Internet website (col. 8, lines 19-65, col. 29 and line 31-col. 30, line 15); which includes a memory for storing users’ profiles or favorite channel(s) information and a Processor which commands a search of the database or memory base on a user’s profile, a display to aid the operator to input information and a server where other channel information may be stored.

the claimed “a subscriber URL information store, the subscriber URL information store comprising at least one of a plurality of hierarchical categories...” is met by EPG Internet web sites (col. 8, lines 18-64, col. 16, line 36-col. 17, line 12 and col. 30, lines 1-16), which stores a viewer favorite website address “URL information” (col. 8, lines 18-64 and col. 18, line 1-12) comprising at least one of a plurality of hierarchical categories, Sports, Movies, News, etc., (col. 7, lines 46-56), the categories providing organization of favorite channel(s) for the program “identifiers of media content” for at least a plurality of channels “sources” of the programs “media streams (col. 29, lines 14-67);

the claimed “a network interface for providing connectivity to an Internet” is met by EPG Internet web sites communication port (col. 8, lines 18-43) which includes a communication port for direct link to users of Television Receivers (TVR) 10 or PCs (col. 3, lines 2-20);

where media is accessible by commanding the server to search the hierarchical categories in the subscriber URL information to find media having content of interest and means for providing the content...” is met by EPG Internet web sites Processor

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(col. 8, lines 18-64, col. 18, line 1-12 and col. 29, lines 14-67), which searches the themes EPG Internet database to retrieve themes of interest base the selected website address of the user and provides to the user.

Claim 8 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 2.

As to claim 9, Alexander further discloses where EPG Internet web sites which stores Viewer information comprises one of a plurality of relational categories that organize the media content (col. 8, lines 46-64, col. 29, line 14-col. 30, line 16 and lines 45-58).

As to claim 10, Alexander further discloses storing favorite channel and programs "personal channel information," where the favorite channel table stored locally in RAM or TVR 10 and is mirrored by to enable the viewer to reference the channel table from remote locations (col. 16, line 36-col. 17, line 12 and col. 29, line 31-col. 30, line 16 and lines 45-58).

As to claim 11, note the **Alexander et al** reference figures 1-4, disclose creation of viewer profile and utilizations of viewer profile information to customize various aspects of the EPG and advertisements and further disclose method for accessing media, the method comprising:

the claimed "retrieving at least one of a plurality of identifiers for a media..." is met by Television Receiver (TVR) 10 Processor, retrieves favorite channel(s) "at least one of a plurality of identifiers for a media source" of a program "media stream" to be played (col. 16, line 36-col. 17, line 12);

"displaying " on TVR 10 display unit" (figs 5-7) the favorite channel (s) for a program of the channel of a plurality of programs to be played (col. 7, lines 10-18); and

upon receiving a viewer selection via Remote controller (RC) 26, the Processor commands tuner "switch" of TVR 10, to select the program to be played from the at least one of the plurality of programs received by TVR 10 and outputs to TVR 10 display for presentation to the viewer (col. 7, lines 10-17, col. 10, lines 43-60 and col. 16, lines 36-50).

As to claim 12, Alexander further discloses storing the favorite channels in a RAM of TVR 10 (col. 16, line 36-col. 17, line 12).

As to claim 13, Alexander further discloses where method forwards from TVR 10 a copy of the viewer profile or favorite channel information "personal information" store to EPG Internet website "a server;" create at the server a copy of the favorite channel information and access the copy of the profile or favorite channel information store to retrieve the favorite channel of programs to be played from TVR 10 "a second location at a later time" (col. 8, lines 37-64, col. 28, lines 10-35 and col. 29, line 31-col. 30, line 16 and lines 45-58).

As to claim 14, Alexander further discloses where the method stores the channel for the program being played and stores in a user watch list (col. 9, line 65-col. 10, line 12).

As to claim 15, Alexander further discloses where the method stores the identifiers in a viewer URL RAM of TVR 10 (col. 8, line 44-64).

As to claim 16, Alexander further discloses where the method stores a viewer favorite website address "URL information" (col. 8, lines 18-64 and col. 18, line 1-12) comprising at least one of a plurality of hierarchical categories, Sports, Movies, News, etc., (col. 7, lines 46-56), the categories providing organization of favorite channel(s) for the program "identifiers of media content" for at least a plurality of channels "sources" of the programs "media streams (col. 29, lines 14-67 col. 16, line 36-col. 17, line 12 and col. 30, lines 1-16);

As to claim 17, Alexander further discloses where the method selects the program to be played and selects one of a plurality of website address corresponding to the related program to be played (col. 8, lines 19-64, col. 18, lines 1-12, lines 33-53 and col. 29, lines 31-col. 30, line 16).

Claim 18 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 2.

As to claim 19, Alexander further discloses where the method causes an identity of a user and provides a plurality of user favorite channels for the user (col. 17, lines 13-36, col. 8, lines 5-17 and col. 16, lines 36-col. 17, line 12).

As to the claim 20, Alexander further discloses where the method causes the TVR 10 to search "scan" the input source for a plurality of available television channels, map the available channels to favorite channels, search the plurality of receivable radio frequencies, map the receivable radio frequencies to the favorite channels search the EPG Internet sources and map the plurality of Internet sources to the favorite channels (col. 8, lines 44-64, col. 18, lines 1-12, lines 33-col. 19, lines 12, col. 29, line 31-col. 30, line 16 and lines 45+).

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Dunn et al (6,571,390) disclose interactive entertainment network system and method for customizing operation thereof according to viewer preferences.

Dodson et al (6,184,877) disclose system and method for interactively accessing program information on a television.

Legall et al (6,005,565) disclose integrated search of electronic program guide, Internet and other information resources.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Annan Q Shang** whose telephone number is **703-305-2156**. The examiner can normally be reached on 700am-500pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **John W Miller** can be reached on **703-305-4795**. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **703-872-9306**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the **Electronic Business Center (EBC)** at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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